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INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE SATELLITES

GDR COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP DECLINING -- Göteborg, Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöf-
arts-Tidning, 9 Jan 54

Ferlin (IT's correspondent) -- According to an official report from the
GDR, present membership of the SED [Communist Party] is 1.2 million, as com-
pared to 2 million members in June 1948, and 1.3 million members in April 1946,
when the party was founded.

Erich Honecker, chairman of the Free German Youth, Communist youth organi-
zation, has taken up the matter of the sharp decline in membership in this organi-
zation. In 1950, the Free German Youth, including the Young Pioneers, had
2.3 million members, but the present membership is estimated to be only half
that number at most.

HUNGARIANS CRITICIZE COMMUNIST LEADERS -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 7 Nov 53

The Central Committee of the Hungarian Workers' Party has passed a resolu-
tion condemning widespread resistance to the party line. The new party program,
aimed especially at improving the production of agricultural and consumer goods,
is not understood by many party officials, including members of the Central Com-
mittee, according to the resolution. It is necessary to lift agriculture out of
its backward state, the resolution adds, and more farmers must be enrolled in the
party. Relations between the party and owners of medium-large farms must be im-
proved.

Informed circles in Vienna believe that the resistance to the new party policy
emanates from the most radical faction of the Hungarian Workers' Party which fav-
ors an increase in heavy industrial production. This group is reported to be led
by Ernő Gerő, Minister for Internal Affairs. Elections of party functionaries
are to be held in January, [1954], according to the communique from the Central

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Committee. It is considered likely that, at that time, as a result of the party criticism, a number of purges will be made

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN GDR -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 23 Nov 53

Berlin, 22 November (Svenska Dagbladet's own correspondent) -- In the wake of the riots of 17 June, 60,000 East Germans have been imprisoned in the GDR, according to West Berlin experts. The notorious penitentiary of Waldheim alone has 5,000 prisoners and the Cottbus prison 3,500 inmates.

COMMUNIST DIFFICULTIES IN ALBANIA -- Athens, Estia, 3 Dec 53

According to reports from Kastoria, Communist cadres recently held a meeting in the Korce area, with two Soviets attending. Certain cadres were punished because of negligence in their duties. The same reports say that proclamations or the "Nationalist Albania" and "Branko Petare" organizations, which have their headquarters in Italy, were circulated on a large scale throughout Albania. These proclamations call on the Albanian people to resist the present regime.

GREEK SENTIMENT SUPPRESSED IN ALBANIA -- Athens, Eleftheros Logos, 15 Nov 53

The Albanian government seeks to wipe out the population of Northern Epirus [southern Albania], according to three young men who escaped from the Sarande region of Albania. The men told Greek authorities in Ioannina that the government campaign includes terrorism, persecution, heavy taxes and a considerable cut in food supplies for the area. During the current school year, time spent on Albanian language instruction has been doubled in the schools attended by Greek children; Greek has also been replaced by Albanian as the teachers' language in the gymnasiums attended by Greek students. According to the same reports, the Albanian schools train children to inform on their families.

OPPONENTS OF REGIME DENOUNCED IN GDR FACTORIES -- Essen, Westdeutsche Allgemeine 15 Nov 53

The FDGB (The East German trade-union organization) has started a concerted drive in the GDR to denounce opponents of the Communist regime in all the large plants which showed active participation in the June riots. Workers of the Carl Zeiss plant in Jena recently found a propaganda leaflet in their pay envelopes which demanded the dismissal of certain workers. The information for such leaflets is provided to the plant labor section by the secret police, while the Communist functionaries in the plant in turn supply information on workers to the secret police. The leaflet at the Carl Zeiss plant contained the names of the following personnel who had either been active on 17 June or had otherwise demonstrated their opposition against the Communist regime: Gerber, Department WSL; Elvira Loeber; Matussek, Department Mifa; Jenette, Department PhoM; and Bishof, graduate engineer and former manager of Department EHL.

STALINSTADT PLANS GO AMISS -- Hanover, Hannoversche Presse, 19 Dec 53

Fuerstenberg, (known since 1 May 1953 as Stalinstadt), which was to be the first model town in the GDR, has an unenviable reputation throughout the country. Only 200 people live in the newly completed section of the town instead of the

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25,000 planned for. None of the planned cooperatives for shoe repair, tailoring, etc., have yet been set up. Fourteen shops were provided for by the first planning stage, but until now only five HO stores (state trade outlets) have been set up, housed in barracks. There have also been shortcomings in the electric power and heating systems.

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